C

Dear Jonn, 12/4/78

There were two surprises in today's mail, both with a single wrapper. Mail addressed at Route 8 reached me and it was from you. We have not moved. The rural routes have been renumbered for the third time, this last time four years ago.

There is no reason for you to begin with trepidation. You are too far away for me to beat the shit out of you, which is what you deserve for the past. If you were not today it would be beyond my ~~[illegible]~~ capabilities because of medical problems. If this were not true I've been non-violent, except with what those like your colleague think of my words, since I taught about 20 Italian classmates in the 20s that there is a limit to what a scholarly Jew with glasses will accept. The one exception is when I caught myself as I was about to throw a fellow soldier overboard from a World War II troopship.

I appreciate your enclosures and the book you are sending separately. I will read them bit at a time because of the changes in my life.

By the time I was hospitalized in 1975 the clotting from thrombophlebitis was so serious that the main vein andsome smaller ones in the left leg and thigh were ~~[illegible]~~ gone along with similar but lesser damage to the right leg and thigh. Then in August 1977 some kind of arterial blockage was diagnosed. I live on rat poison, literally, and by what exercise I can pursue. Artifical in bad weather and hard outside work when that is possible. When I rest is the only time I have for reading. Except for court appearances and a still shorter than average night's sleep I'm at my desk doing the usual work the rest of the time.

In recent years this has been almost entirely Freedom of Information litigation. In the past year and a half along I've obtained more than 150,000 pages from the FBI alone. Nothing of substance used - meaning misused - by the House assassins is what I have not obtained.

This takes much time but I regard doing it as my primary obligation.

It means I've not been able to do any other writing for more than three years.

When asked and paid I still travel and speak. I'd had a rough week, complicated by storms and travel difficulties and very little sleep prior to the Friday TV shots I take it from your letter you saw.

This means that I have to concentrate on the two cases on which I have done extensive work, JFK and King. I do have a bit about RFK in my last book, 1975's Post Mortem.

I notice Bugliosi's affiliation with F. Lee Bailey on the letterhead. He may be interested in knowing that when Ray asked him from England to represent him Bailey did not consult with Ray and did consult with the Department of Justice, after which he declined to take the case. History may have turned on this because there is and was no case against Ray.

Your enclosures, which I've looked at but not read, do not include "our follow-up letter to our Washington liaison+lawyer."

You may prefer to forget it but you did get 5,000 copies of the now out-of-print Oswald in New Orleans, did not pay for any of them, did not return those you did not sell, would not without my paying the shipping costs in advance, and then did not respond when I had these costs assured. The last word I had was that they were at your Pacific Avenue address. If they are still there I'd like them. I still get calls for the book.

With regard to your second graf I have 20,000 or more pages of once secret CIA records on toying with the mind and related normal intelligence endeavors. I've not had time to read most of them. Your theory is not far from what I thought at the time, more along the line of The Biliken Courier than The Manchurian Candidate. There was a company expert in San Francisco. He used the name George Hunter White. I'll tell you where his records are in return for any copies made of them or notes where copies are not available. ...'il is okay, thanks. If you are in touch with Hal or Harv, my best to them.

Sincerely,

P.S. I'm told you say in your book that a friendly FBI agent repeated one of your phone conversations with me. If you can add details I'd appreciate them because the FBI denies any such thing in responses to my Privacy Act and FOIA requests in which this would be pertinent.

Turner or Lipsett may be aware of their local arrangements under which others do the deeds for them.

If I remember correctly, you usually used the KDBS switchboard. Either they had access to all of that or the interception was around here.